

1 as an improper aggravating factor that petitioner had admitted there were multiple victims;
2 (4) his due process rights were violated by the sentencing court improperly considering any
3 aggravating factors where the State failed to allege aggravating factors prior to petitioner
4 entering into the plea agreement; (5) his due process rights were violated because the
5 sentencing court failed to properly consider mitigation factors; and (6) his due process rights
6 were violated because he was sentenced “pursuant to a special sentencing provision
7 inapplicable to [the attempted sexual conduct] offenses.”

8 The Magistrate Judge determined that petitioner failed to properly exhaust any of
9 these claims, that because state remedies were no longer available, the claims are
10 procedurally defaulted, and that petitioner made no showing of a miscarriage of justice, or
11 cause and actual prejudice to excuse the default. See Schlup v. Delo, 513 U.S. 298, 319, 115
12 S. Ct. 851, 863 (1995).

13 The Magistrate Judge first concluded that Ground 1 is procedurally defaulted because
14 petitioner did not raise an issue of ineffective assistance of counsel in his petition for review
15 before the Arizona Court of Appeals. Petitioner concedes that the issue was not presented
16 in his petition for review, but argues that the State nevertheless “understood the claim as an
17 ineffective assistance of counsel claim and addressed it that way in its argument in the state
18 court of appeals.” Objections at 2. This is a mischaracterization of the record. Our review
19 of the State’s response to the petition for review does not address a claim for ineffective
20 assistance of counsel. See doc. 2-8. Ground 1 is procedurally defaulted.¹

21 The Magistrate Judge next concluded that the issues presented in Grounds 2 and 3
22 were presented as state law claims only, and therefore federal claims were not fairly
23 presented to the state court. Petitioner contends that his mention of the Sixth and Fourteenth
24 Amendments in his petition for review is sufficient to fairly present federal claims. We
25 disagree. “Exhaustion demands more than drive-by citation, detached from any articulation
26

27 ¹The parties agree that petitioner is unable to return to state court in order to exhaust
28 his claims for relief.

1 of an underlying federal legal theory.” Castillo v. McFadden, 399 F.3d 993, 1003 (9th Cir.
2 2005). Because petitioner failed to present the claims under federal law claims, Grounds 2
3 and 3 are procedurally defaulted.

4 In Ground 4, petitioner argues that the trial court violated his Fourteenth Amendment
5 right to due process by considering aggravating factors despite the State’s failure to notify
6 petitioner of its intention to rely on aggravating factors before he entered his guilty plea.
7 Again, petitioner argues that his citation to a United States Supreme Court case is sufficient
8 to fairly present a federal claim. Although petitioner arguably raised this as a federal claim
9 in his petition for post-conviction relief, he did not present it as a federal claim in his petition
10 for review. See doc. 2-7. We agree with the Magistrate Judge that Ground 4 is procedurally
11 defaulted.

12 Petitioner asserts in Ground 5 that the trial court violated his due process rights when
13 it improperly discounted proffered mitigation evidence. The Magistrate Judge found that
14 petitioner failed to assert this as a federal claim in his petition for post-conviction relief.
15 Again petitioner argues that his claim was fairly presented because the State argued the issue
16 on the basis of federal law. But the State merely quotes petitioner’s own broad, conclusory
17 statement that his sentence violates the Sixth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments. There
18 is no discussion whatsoever regarding the constitutionality of the trial court’s treatment of
19 mitigation evidence.

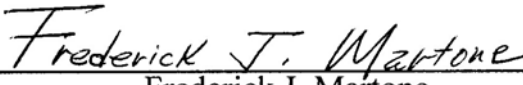
20 Petitioner asserts in Ground 6 that his right to due process was violated when he was
21 sentenced under an inapplicable sentencing provision, A.R.S. § 13-604.01. The Magistrate
22 Judge concluded that because petitioner did not raise this as a federal claim before the
23 Arizona Court of Appeals, the claim is not exhausted. Again, petitioner misconstrues the
24 state court pleadings when he argues that the federal claim was fairly presented. We agree
25 with the Magistrate Judge that Ground 6 is procedurally defaulted.

26 Finally, petitioner makes no showing to establish either cause or prejudice to excuse
27 the procedural defaults. Therefore, pursuant to Rule 8(b), Rules Governing § 2254 Cases,
28 and after *de novo* review, we accept the recommended decision of the United States

1 Magistrate Judge. **IT IS ORDERED DENYING AND DISMISSING** with prejudice the
2 petition for writ of habeas corpus (doc. 1).

3 Because the dismissal of the petition is justified by a plain procedural bar and jurists
4 of reason would not find the procedural ruling debatable, **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**
5 **DENYING** a certificate of appealability and leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* on appeal

6 DATED this 4th day of October, 2012.

7
8 
9 Frederick J. Martone
United States District Judge